

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a controller device, a method for selecting and controlling  
5 devices in a network, said method comprising:  
selecting a first device from a first listing of devices, wherein said first  
device is a sink device for receiving input from another device;  
selecting an input plug for said first device from a listing of input plugs for  
said first device;  
10 selecting a second device from a second listing of devices, wherein said  
second device is a source device for providing input to another device; and  
selecting an output plug for said second device from a listing of output  
plugs for said second device;  
wherein said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs are  
15 generated using information read from said first device and said second device,  
respectively.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said network is substantially  
compliant with the IEEE 1394 communication bus standard.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said information used for  
generating said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs is not  
stored on said controller device.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said first listing and said second listing are the same.

5 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said first listing comprises sink devices and said second listing comprises source devices.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein in response to said selecting of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug, a  
10 network connection between said first device and said second device is made, wherein said second device provides input to said first device using said network connection.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein input provided to said first device  
15 is output by said second device using only said output plug.

8. The method of Claim 1 comprising:  
querying said first device and said second device; and  
reading information provided in response to said querying, wherein said  
20 information is used for generating said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs.

9. The method of Claim 1 comprising:

executing programmed instructions to automatically select said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug.

10. The method of Claim 1 comprising:

recording selections of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug.

11. The method of Claim 1 comprising:

selecting a channel from a listing of active channels, wherein said listing of active channels identifies network connections between devices in said network.

12. A controller device for selecting and controlling devices in a

network, said controller device comprising:

a user interface comprising an input-select element and an output-select element;

wherein said input-select element is operable to cause a first device to be selected from a first listing of devices and to cause an input plug for said first device to be selected from a listing of input plugs for said first device, wherein said first device is a sink device for receiving input from another device;

wherein said output-select element is operable to cause a second device to be selected from a second listing of devices and to cause an output plug for

said second device to be selected from a listing of output plugs for said second device, wherein said second device is a source device for providing input to another device; and

wherein said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs are  
5 generated using information read from said first device and said second device, respectively.

13. The controller device of Claim 12 wherein said network is substantially compliant with the IEEE 1394 communication bus standard.

10 14. The controller device of Claim 12 wherein said information used for generating said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs is not stored on said controller device.

15 15. The controller device of Claim 12 wherein said first listing and said second listing are the same.

16. The controller device of Claim 12 wherein said first listing comprises sink devices and said second listing comprises source devices.

20 17. The controller device of Claim 12 wherein in response to selection of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug, a network connection between said first device and said second device is made,

wherein said second device provides input to said first device using said network connection.

18. The controller device of Claim 17 wherein input provided to said first device is output by said second device using only said output plug.

19. The controller device of Claim 12 wherein a selection of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug is performed automatically according to programmed instructions.

20. The controller device of Claim 12 wherein said controller device is operable to record selections of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug.

21. The controller device of Claim 12 wherein said input-select element is operable to cause a channel to be selected from a listing of active channels, wherein said listing of active channels identifies network connections between devices in said network.

22. A controller device for selecting and controlling devices in a network, said controller device comprising:

means for selecting a first device from a first listing of devices, wherein said first device is a sink device for receiving input from another device;

means for selecting an input plug for said first device from a listing of input plugs for said first device;

means for selecting a second device from a second listing of devices, wherein said second device is a source device for providing input to another device; and

means for selecting an output plug for said second device from a listing of output plugs for said second device;

wherein said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs are generated using information read from said first device and said second device, respectively.

23. The controller device of Claim 22 wherein said network is substantially compliant with the IEEE 1394 communication bus standard.

24. The controller device of Claim 22 wherein said information used for generating said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs is not stored on said controller device.

25. The controller device of Claim 22 wherein in response to said selecting of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug, a network connection between said first device and said second device is made, wherein said second device provides input to said first device using said network connection.

26. The controller device of Claim 25 wherein input provided to said first device is output by said second device using only said output plug.

5 27. The controller device of Claim 22 comprising:  
means for querying said first device and said second device; and  
means for reading information provided in response to said querying,  
wherein said information is used for generating said listing of input plugs and  
said listing of output plugs.

10 28. The controller device of Claim 22 comprising:  
means for executing programmed instructions to automatically select  
said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug.

15 29. The controller device of Claim 22 comprising:  
means for recording selections of said first device, said input plug, said  
second device and said output plug.

20 30. The controller device of Claim 22 comprising:  
means for selecting a channel from a listing of active channels, wherein  
said listing of active channels identifies network connections between devices  
in said network.